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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part X)*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 91 (see A/48/717, para. 2). Action to be taken on sub-item (h) was considered at the 34th and 47th meetings, on 17 November and 10 December 1993. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.34 and 47).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/48/L.16 AND A/C.2/48/L.77

2. At the 34th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/48/L.16) entitled "Science and technology for development", which read as follows:

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* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/48/717 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the continuing validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, 1/ endorsed in Assembly resolution 34/218 I, of 19 December 1979, and subsequently reaffirmed in resolution 44/14 A of 26 October 1989,

"Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3, 2/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199, 3/ Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 4/ and other resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations system concerning science and technology for development,

"Bearing in mind the critical contribution of science and technology, including new and emerging technologies, to the reactivation of economic growth and development of the developing countries and their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"Emphasizing the need for developed countries and international organizations to support the efforts of developing countries to create and develop endogenous scientific and technological capabilities,

"Recognizing that the United Nations should play a central role in the enhancement of assistance to build the endogenous capacity of developing countries in science and technology and to facilitate access to technologies for, and their transfer to, developing countries,

"Noting that some of the export control policies of many developed countries have hindered the development of science and technology in some developing countries,

"1. Endorses the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 1993 substantive session on the basis of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

2/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I.

its first session, and recommends the inclusion of the coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology among the issues to be considered in the coordination segment of the Council at its substantive session in 1994;

"2. Urges that national efforts and international development cooperation, in particular through supportive financial and technical assistance from donor Governments, multilateral lending institutions and international agencies, be intensified and strengthened towards endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries;

"3. Stresses that endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries is indispensable to their efforts to mobilize indigenous resources for science and technology for development and hence should remain a priority issue on the agenda of the United Nations;

"4. Emphasizes the imperative of enhancing and strengthening the role of the United Nations in supporting the developing countries in endogenous capacity-building in the field of science and technology, including biotechnology, as well as the importance of strengthening system-wide coordination of related activities so as to make the United Nations system as a whole more responsive to the relevant needs of the developing countries;

"5. Welcomes the initiative for a consultative meeting to consider ways and means for organizing a more effective coalition of resources to meet the scientific and technological needs of the developing countries, and requests the Secretary-General to make provisions for convening such a meeting as soon as possible;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of programme 17, on science and technology for sustainable development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and, in particular, to provide adequate resources for the implementation of the activities proposed for the biennium 1994-1995 in the field of science and technology for development, in accordance with the specific mandates provided for in relevant General Assembly resolutions;

"7. Stresses the urgent need to strengthen the mandate of the United Nations in the field of science and technology, particularly in technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting;

"8. Calls upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to interact effectively, through the Economic and Social Council, in carrying out their respective mandates;

"9. Recognizes the importance of cooperation among the developing countries in the field of science and technology, building upon their comparative advantages and complementarities, and urges the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional or subregional

organizations and programmes to provide continued and enhanced support, through technical assistance and financing, for such efforts;

"10. Recognizes also the potentially important role of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development in enhancing endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries, and calls upon donor countries to contribute generously to the Fund;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution and on ways and means of reinvigorating the Fund and ensuring its effective operation, inter alia, through the mobilization of increased contributions to it to meet the needs of the developing countries."

3. At the 47th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/48/L.77), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.16.

4. At the same meeting, the representative of China made editorial corrections to draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.77 and also revised it as follows: the third preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Recognizing the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the context of relevant measures to restructure the Secretariat, and Assembly resolution 47/212 of 23 December 1992,"

was replaced with the following paragraph:

"Recognizing, in the context of relevant measures to restructure the Secretariat and Assembly resolution 47/212 of 23 December 1992, the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in this respect;".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.77 as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 5/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, endorsed in Assembly resolution 34/218, of 19 December 1979 and subsequently reaffirmed in resolution 44/14 A of 26 October 1989,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 6/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 7/ the Cartagena Commitment, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, 8/ the recommendations and decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly those contained in Agenda 21, 9/ resolution 46/165 of 19 December 1991 and other resolutions and decisions adopted by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerning science and technology for development,

Recognizing, in the context of relevant measures to restructure the Secretariat and Assembly resolution 47/212 of 23 December 1992, the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in this respect,

Bearing in mind the vital contribution of science and technology, including new and emerging technologies, to the reactivation of economic growth and development of the developing countries and their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming that capacity-building in science and technology for development in the developing countries should remain one of the priority issues on the agenda of the United Nations,

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5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

6/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

7/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

8/ TD/364, part one, sect. A.

9/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

Recognizing that the United Nations should play a central role in the enhancement of support and assistance to the developing countries in their efforts to build their endogenous capacity in science and technology,

Recalling the need to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to the developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of the developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21,

Stressing the need for developed countries and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of developing countries to create and develop endogenous scientific and technological capabilities,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the developing countries, 10/

1. Endorses the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993 on the basis of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its first session, 11/ including the recommendation that the Council, at its organizational session for 1994, include science and technology for development as a priority subject to be considered for the coordination segment of the Council in 1994;

2. Stresses that endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the developing countries is indispensable to their efforts to mobilize indigenous resources for science and technology for development;

3. Emphasizes the vital role of the United Nations in supporting the developing countries in endogenous capacity-building in the field of science and technology;

4. Urges that national efforts and international development cooperation, in particular through supportive financial and technical assistance from donor Governments, multilateral lending institutions and international agencies, be intensified and strengthened towards endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the developing countries;

5. Welcomes the initiative for a consultative meeting to consider ways and means for organizing a more effective coalition of resources to meet the scientific and technological needs of the developing countries, and requests the

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10/ A/48/465.

11/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 11 (E/1993/31).

Secretary-General to make provisions for convening such a meeting, within existing resources, as soon as possible;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of programme 17, science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 12/ and the activities planned for the biennium 1994-1995 in the field of science and technology for development, in accordance with the specific mandates provided for in relevant General Assembly resolutions;

7. Stresses the urgent need to strengthen the vital role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology, particularly through better coordination, including in the field of technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting;

8. Calls upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to interact effectively, through the Economic and Social Council, in carrying out their respective mandates;

9. Recognizes the importance of cooperation among the developing countries in the field of science and technology, building on their comparative advantages and complementarities, and urges the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional or subregional organizations and programmes to provide continued and enhanced support, through technical assistance and financing, as appropriate, for such efforts;

10. Recognizes also the potentially important role of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development in enhancing endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the developing countries, and calls on all countries in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Fund;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on ways and means of reinvigorating the Fund and ensuring its effective operation.

12/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).